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Secret Service Expansion

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A special White House committee has bypassed President Johnson to ask Congress for \$4 million to beef up the Secret Service.

The money would give the Secret Service another 183 agents and other new personnel and equipment—much of it still secret—to carry out its major mission of protecting the President and Vice President.

The proposed expansion is the outgrowth of the intensive evaluation of Secret Service capabilities that followed President Kennedy's assassination 16 months ago.

Douglas Dillon, retiring Secretary of the Treasury and a committee member, told a House Appropriations subcommittee that the special fund request overshadows every other item in his Department's proposed budget.

"I personally believe that it is the single most important matter to be considered by the Appropriations Committees of the House and Senate this year," he said.

The testimony, given during closed hearings last month, was released for publication today.

The Federal budget that President Johnson sent to Congress in January included \$8,

750,000 for the Secret Service, which is an arm of the Treasury Department. Dillon asked the subcommittee for \$12,627,000.

"It is perhaps unprecedented for a Cabinet officer . . . to ask for an appropriation in excess of that requested by the President," he said. "This is, however, a very special and indeed unique situation."

Dillon said Mr. Johnson knew the extra funds were being requested but had decided not to pass upon the request himself because of the personal involvement.

"He is fully content to leave the decision to the wisdom of Congress," Dillon said.

Dillon and Secret Service Chief James J. Rowley gave the subcommittee the most complete account thus far available to the public of the steps already taken, and those proposed, to tighten Presidential security.

The Warren Commission recommended strengthening the Secret Service in its comprehensive report on the Kennedy assassination released last Sept. 27.

On the same day, Mr. Johnson set up the special committee to advise him on the recommendations. In addition to

Dillon, Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach, CIA Director John A. McCone and McGeorge Bundy, White House special assistant for security affairs, were named to the panel.

On the committee's recommendation, based on task force reports, the Secret Service was given 75 more employees, 50 of them agents, last November. The President's budget would continue the Secret Service at that strength.

Dillon proposed hiring another 183 agents and 76 administrative and clerical employees in the fiscal year starting July 1, giving the Secret Service a staff of 920. The agency had a staff of 586 at the time of the assassination.

The over-all budget increase also includes \$185,000 to plan and initiate an automatic data processing system and \$835,000 for "various armored devices and equipment."

When asked about the equipment, Rowley said the devices are classified and discussed them with the subcommittee off the record.

Rowley said the electronic data processing equipment is necessary to speed up procedures and prevent human err-

or in the Service's protective research section.

The section now lists 240,000 persons and groups who may be a danger to the President, Rowley said. There are 55,000 dossiers containing detailed information, he said.

Those files have grown enormously since the assassination, he said, largely because of closer liaison with other Federal agencies and police departments.

The Service received 125 referrals from outside agencies in September, 1963, he said, compared with 3681 last January. The monthly average is now about 6000, he said, most of them from the FBI.

An index of persons considered most dangerous to the President has grown from 200 to 800 in the past year, Rowley said.

He cited the difficulty of combing through those files manually when the President plans to visit a given city or attend a given event. As an example, Rowley said 3500 names had to be checked out for Mr. Johnson's trip to the Democratic National Convention.

Because of the present volume of referrals, Rowley

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estimated that 14,000 names will be sent to the Services's 65 field officers for follow-up investigations in the coming fiscal year.

The Service wants to assign another 198 agents to the field offices to handle security and other investigations, keep track of suspects, survey areas where the President might travel and provide protection during Presidential visits.

Surveys already have been conducted in most of the Nation's major cities to identify possibly dangerous locations, Rowley said.

Asked about the lack of communication between enforcement agencies criticized by the Warren Commission, he reported that the Secret Service now has a written agreement with the FBI detailing Service requirements.

Similar agreements are being worked out with the CIA, the State Department and the armed services, he said.

Rep. Joseph P. Addabbo (D-N.Y.) wanted to know if Lee Harvey Oswald, Mr. Kennedy's assassin, would have been apprehended or under surveillance if the new procedures had been in effect in 1963.

Rowley's direct reply was off the record, but he said later that Oswald's name would have been reported to the Secret Service under present procedures. There was no such report in 1963.

Subcommittee Chairman Tom Steed (D-Okla.) suggested that the day may come when the President's movements will have to be restricted, by law or otherwise, to avoid security risks.

"A President who is active just creates problems in the providing of any reasonable safety precautions," said Steed. "I keep feeling that every citizen has such an equity in him that a reasonable restriction on him has some grounds for it."

Dillon was inclined to think that a President cannot be restricted against his will but he agreed that the security problem is difficult.